

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 081707

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT NEW DELHI 5374 ACTION SECSTATE INFO TOKYO

CINCPAC 22 APR

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 5374

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARG, PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: INDIA MINISTER CHARGES US STORING POISON GAS ON
DIEGO GARCIA

1. MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE, B.P. MAURYA, IS REPORTED
IN PRO-COMMUNIST PATRIOT APRIL 22 AS HAVING TOLD A MEETING
HONORING THE 104TH ANNIVERSARY OF LENIN'S BIRTH APRIL 21 THAT
US WAS STOCKPILING POISON GASES ON DIEGO GARCIA AFTER REMOVING
THEM FROM OKINAWA. THIS, HE SAID, WAS PART OF THE US PLAN TO
THREATEN THE WORLD IF IT DIDN'T TOE THE LINE.

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PAGE 02 STATE 081707

2. AMBASSADOR CALLED FOREIGN SECRETARY THIS MORNING TO ASK

WHAT MAURYA HD SAID AND WHAT INDIAN GOVERNMENT MADE OF THE STATEMENT. FOREIGN SECRETARY AGREED TO LOOK INTO THE REPORT.

3. AMBASSADOR TOLD ASSOCIATED PRESS IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRY THAT HE WAS SURPRISED AT MAURYA'S REMARK AND (OFF THE RECORD) THAT HE HAD ASKED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ABOUT IT. AP CORRESPONDENT SAID HE HAD ASKED MAURYA HIMSELF DURING THE DAY AND MAURYU CONFIRMED THE PRESS REPORT AND MERELY SAID HE HAD "HEARD THE STORY SOMEWHERE".

4. COMMENT: MAURYA IS AN UNPREDICTABLE POLITICIAN, SOMETIMES FRIENDLY TOWARD AMERICANS BUT STRONGLY INVOLVED WITH THE CONGRESS "LEFT". MAURYA'S ALLEGATION IS, I SUPPOSE, WRONG. NEVERTHELESS I ANTICIPATE THERE WILL BE QUESTIONS ASKED IN PARLIAMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO MAKE SOME STATEMENT. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF I COULD HAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AN OFFICIAL CATEGORICAL DENIAL THAT I CAN PASS TO THE FOREIGN SECRETARY ON THE GAS CHARGE. BARRING WORD FROM WASHINGTON I WILL ASSUME WE ARE COVERING UP.

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5. ASSOCIATED PRESS WIRE SERVICE JUST RECEIVED STATES THAT QUOTE WARSHIPS ARE LEAVING THE INDIAN OCEAN FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE WEST ASIA CRISIS LAST YEAR. UNQUOTE THIS IS TRANSPARENT PYSCHOLOGICAL WARFARE ATTEMPT BY THE COMMIES TO PERSUADE THE ASIANS THAT THEY ARE NOT IN FACT SAFE BEHIND THE WOODEN WALLS OF THE AMERICAN FLEET. I WILL ISSUE CATEGORICAL DENIAL IF ANY LEFTIST SONOFABITCH AROUND HERE HAS THE CHUTZPAH TO ASK CONFIRMATION. YOU'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO THEM, THOUGH. THEY HAVE EVEN INFILTRATED THE AP.

6. INCIDENTLY, WHAT THE AP HAS TRANSITING THE STRAITS, THE INDIAN DEFENSE MINISTER A FEW DAYS AGO HAD STATIONED AT DIEGO GARCIA. HE TOLD THE PARLIAMENT ON APRIL 18 THAT ONE CARRIER, SEVEN DESTROYERS AND AMPHIBIOUS SHIP AND ONE OR TWO TANKERS WERE BASED ON THE ISLAND. I HAVE WRITTEN TO HIM SAYING THAT NOT ONLY ARE NO SUCH VESSELS STATIONED UT DIEGO GARCIA BUT NONE OF THESE HAVE EVEN CALLED THERE. MOYNIHAN UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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